



# COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Allergies

Updated Feb. 7, 2022

If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination provider site, seek immediate medical care by calling 911. Learn more about [COVID-19 Vaccines and Allergic Reactions](#).

An **allergic reaction is considered severe** when a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or EpiPen<sup>®</sup> or if the person must go to the hospital. Experts refer to severe allergic reactions as anaphylaxis.

An **immediate allergic reaction** happens within 4 hours after getting vaccinated and could include symptoms such as hives, swelling, and wheezing (respiratory distress).

## If You Are Allergic to an Ingredient in a COVID-19 Vaccine

If you have had a severe allergic reaction or an immediate allergic reaction—even if it was not severe a known diagnosed allergy—to any ingredient in an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, **you should not get either of the currently available mRNA COVID-19 vaccines** (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna).

If you have had a severe allergic reaction or an immediate allergic reaction a known diagnosed allergy to any ingredient in Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine, **you should not get the J&J/Janssen vaccine**.

If you aren't able to get one type of COVID-19 vaccine because you are allergic to an ingredient in that vaccine, **ask your doctor if you should get a different type of COVID-19 vaccine**. Learn about [the different types of COVID-19 vaccines](#).



Learn what to do if you had an allergic reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

- [Pfizer-BioNTech](#)
- [Moderna](#)
- [J&J/Janssen](#)

## If You Are Allergic to Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) or Polysorbate

PEG and polysorbate are closely related to each other. PEG is an ingredient in the mRNA vaccines, and polysorbate is an ingredient in the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

**If you are allergic to PEG, you should not get an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.** Ask your doctor if you can get the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

**If you are allergic to polysorbate, you should not get the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.** Ask your doctor if you can get an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

# If You Had a Non-Severe Allergic Reaction to a COVID-19 Vaccine

If you had an immediate allergic reaction (a reaction that started within 4 hours of getting vaccinated) to a COVID-19 vaccine,

## COVID-19

## If You Are Allergic to Other Types of Vaccines

If you have had an immediate allergic reaction—even if it was not severe—to a vaccine or injectable therapy for another disease, **ask your doctor if you should get a COVID-19 vaccine.** Your doctor will help you decide if it is safe for you to get vaccinated.

## If You Have Allergies Not Related to Vaccines

CDC recommends that people get vaccinated even if they have a history of severe allergic reactions not related to vaccines or injectable medications—such as food, pet, venom, environmental, or latex allergies. People with a history of allergies to oral medications or a family history of severe allergic reactions may also get vaccinated.

**Find a COVID-19 vaccine or booster:** Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

### Related Pages

- › [What to Do If You Have an Allergic Reaction after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- › [Different COVID-19 Vaccines](#)



### For Healthcare Professionals

- [Management of Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [COVID-19 Clinical Resources](#)

Last Updated Feb. 7, 2022